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SUBJECT Recruitment

JACKSON BAIN: Well, almost every federal agency is being forced to cut back on its employee roles under the budget reductions. Almost every agency except the CIA. The CIA is beginning to get bigger, and they're actively recruiting new workers now.

Metromedia 5's Mike Ritz has that story.

MIKE RITZ: This week, Washington's radio waves are filled with an unusual welcome message in these times of federal cutbacks. The government is actually advertising for workers.

[Clip of CIA ad].

MAN: The Central Intelligence Agency needs men and women with backgrounds in computer and physical sciences, economics, engineering, languages or foreign area studies. To you we say these are times to put your training and ability to work where it really counts, at the CIA.

[End of clip].

RITZ: The CIA is growing. The agency will not say how many people already work there, and the number of people they hope to hire is also a secret. But the agency will say it is looking for everything from clerical workers to highly qualified people capable of handling sophisticated electronic gear. Of course, they will not say what the electronics are used for. And the agency is looking for agents. But of course, they don't call them agents.

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CIA DEP. DIR. WILSON: The most difficult position for us to fill at this point in time is recruiting and hiring career trainees. A career trainee is an overseas intelligence officer. He is a -- or she is, an individual who will be trained to go abroad, possibly spend two-thirds of their career with the agency in a foreign environment, collecting intelligence from human sources and sources that are not openly available to us.

RITZ: CIA Deputy Director Wilson says the main problem the agency has in job recruiting is that applicants must wait so darn long before they know they are hired. You see, the security check of every applicant takes six months. In fact, the CIA is so security conscious, its own radio ads don't even tell you where the agency is.

[Clip of CIA ad]

MAN: If you'd like to help shape a world to come, send your resume to the Central Intelligence Agency, P.O. Box 1925, Room 2000, Washington, D.C. 20013. The Central Intelligence Agency.

[End of clip].

RITZ: Mike Ritz, Metromedia News.